

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Week Ending April 13, 2012

Second Round of Sampling Data from Dimock Attracts Media Flurry - The Philadelphia Inquirer, Scranton Times-Tribune, Associated Press and International Business Times were among the wide range of media contacting the press office for more details after the region issued a brief email notification to media outlets about the latest round of sampling results from homes in Dimock, Pa. The EPA email stated that EPA has completed and shared with residents and Pennsylvania state officials the second set of sampling at 20 private drinking water wells. This set of sampling did not show levels of contaminants that would give EPA reason to take immediate action. EPA remains committed to providing Dimock residents with the best available data and information on the quality of drinking water as expeditiously as possible. (Roy Seneca, 814-5567)

Administrator Jackson and Mayor Nutter Sign Green City, Clean Waters Partnership Agreement - EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson, RA Shawn Garvin, and Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter were joined by Congresswoman Allyson Schwartz and city and federal officials in signing an agreement for \$2 billion in investment in Philadelphia green infrastructure during an event at the Fairmount Water Works on April 10.

Over the next 25 years, the *Green City, Clean Waters* partnership agreement will transform many of Philadelphia's traditional hardened surfaces to green areas to better manage potentially harmful rainwater runoff pollution. This unique federal – city partnership is designed to ensure the success of the *Green City, Clean Waters Plan* and to present the plan as a national model for cities embracing green stormwater infrastructure. Green infrastructure investments make our communities cleaner, healthier, and more attractive places to live and work. The signing event was very well attended and received extensive media coverage. (David Sternberg, 814-5548)

ST Products to Pay \$75,000 for Clean Water Act Violations - On April 12, EPA announced a settlement with ST Products resolving alleged Clean Water Act violations at the company's metal tube fabrication facility in Duncansville, Blair County, Pa. ST Products agreed to pay a \$75,000 penalty for exceeding permit limits when discharging industrial wastewater pollutants to the wastewater treatment plant operated by the Borough of Hollidaysburg (BOH) in Frankston Township, Blair County, Pa. The BOH wastewater treatment plant discharges treated wastewater to the Juniata River which flows into the Susquehanna and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay. (David Sternberg, 814-5548)

EXCO to Pay Penalty for Safe Drinking Water Act Violations in Clearfield Pa. - On April 12, EPA announced a settlement with EXCO Resources for violations of the federal law designed to protect underground sources of drinking water. The violations occurred at the company's brine disposal well located at Brady Field in Bell Township, Clearfield County, Pa. Under the terms of the Consent Agreement with EPA, EXCO is required to pay a civil penalty of \$159,624 and comply with the conditions of its underground injection control permit. The company must also rework the well in accordance with an EPA-approved plan to comply with

federal mechanical integrity standards for brine disposal wells, which require multiple levels of protection to prevent contamination of underground sources of drinking water.
(David Sternberg, 814-5541)

Associated Press Covered EPA Announcement of \$1.37 Million in Environmental Grants to Restore the Potomac Highlands - RA Shawn M. Garvin joined U.S. Senator Ben Cardin and representatives from American Rivers at Frostburg State University in Frostburg, Md. to announce the six recipients of \$1,373,119 in grant money. The six projects included three in Virginia and one each in Maryland, Pennsylvania and West Virginia, and ranged from preserving forests to creating jobs by creating a greenhouse complex, creek restoration, and water quality improvement. EPA selected American Rivers in 2011 to implement the environmental grant program. A second round of RFPs has also been announced since \$300,000 from the original funding has become available. The deadline for proposals is May 25.
(Joan Schafer, 814-5143 and Donna Heron, 814-5113)

PRESS RELEASES

- Apr. 10** EPA Administrator Jackson and Philadelphia Mayor Nutter Sign Landmark Green City, Clean Waters Partnership Agreement (Sternberg)
- Apr. 11** EPA Announces DC Area has Second Highest Number of ENERGY STAR Certified Buildings in U.S. (Smith)
- Apr. 12** EPA and American Rivers Award \$1.37 Million in Grants to Restore Potomac Highlands Rivers, Clean Water (Heron)
- EXCO Resources to Pay Penalty for Safe Drinking Water Act Violations in Clearfield County, Pa. (Sternberg)
- ST Products to Pay \$75,000 Penalty for Clean Water Act Violations at Blair County, Pa. Facility (Sternberg)